GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3107
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
MINIMUM WAGES FOR BIDI WORKERS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to protect the Bidi workers from the exploitation of the employers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any minimum wage has been fixed for the Bidi workers for making Bidis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): Government have enacted the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 to protect the interests of beedi workers. This Act is being implemented by the State Governments. Rules have also been framed under this Act to ensure proper implementation of various provisions.

Further, Government are implementing various schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education, Recreation and Social Security under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, for the welfare of beedi workers and their dependants.

(c) & (d): State Governments, who are the appropriate Governments for the fixation and revision of minimum wages for the workers employed in Beedi Industry under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,have fixed rates for making beedies in their respective states. The rates currently prevailing in the concerned States are enclosed.